Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the previously-pending claims with the following claim listing.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent to a mammal which has a~~n allergic or inflammatory~~ disease selected from the group consisting of asthma and chronic airway remodeling, wherein said agent inhibits an activity or expression of a component of an arginine metabolic pathway in a tissue affected by the disease, and said component is not a nitric oxide synthase (NOS).

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said agent is capable of binding to the component or a polynucleotide encoding the component.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said component is an arginase.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said component is a cationic amino acid transporter.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said component is downstream of an arginase in the pathway.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said agent inhibits the expression of the component by RNA interference or an antisense mechanism.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said agent encodes or comprises an siRNA capable of inhibiting the expression of ARG1 in said tissue by RNA interference.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said agent encodes or comprises an siRNA capable of inhibiting the expression of CAT2 in said tissue by RNA interference.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said agent is α-difluoromethylornithine.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said agent is lysine or a cationic polypeptide.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said human has asthma ~~or COPD~~, and said component is an arginase or a cationic amino acid transporter, and wherein said agent is capable of binding to said component or a polynucleotide encoding said component.

15-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent to a mammal which has a disease selected from the group consisting of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, wherein said agent inhibits an activity or expression of CAT2 in a tissue affected by the disease.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of inorganic molecules, small organic molecules and biomolecules.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is lysine.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a vector capable of *in vivo* production of a polypeptide or a polynucleotide that inhibits (1) the expression of a CAT2 gene in said mammal or (2) an activity of a CAT2 protein in said mammal.